

a1 sub B1 (b) heating said laminate to cause said melt-flowable composition to flow over and substantially cover a desired area of said surface to adhere said laminate to said surface,

((said dimensionally stable film controlling the melt-flow behavior of said melt-flowable composition to substantially confine said melt-flowable composition to said desired area of said surface;))and

(c) allowing said laminate to cool while substantially ((retaining said pre-selected surface topography of said film.))

7. (New) A method according to claim 6 wherein said melt-flowable composition comprises a thermoplastic composition.

8. (New) A method according to claim 6 wherein said melt-flowable composition comprises a thermosetting composition.

9. (New) A method according to claim 6 wherein said melt-flowable composition comprises a semi-crystalline, thermosetting composition comprising an epoxy-polyester blend.

10. (New) A method according to claim 6 wherein said dimensionally stable film comprises an ultra-high molecular weight polyolefin.

11. (New) A method according to claim 6 wherein said dimensionally stable film comprises an ultra-high molecular weight microporous polyolefin.

12. (New) A method according to claim 6 wherein said dimensionally stable film comprises an oriented polyester.

13. (New) A method according to claim 6 wherein said dimensionally stable film comprises oriented polyethylene terephthalate.

a 14. (New) A method according to claim 6 wherein said dimensionally stable film comprises a B-staged thermosetting composition.

~~213/213/213/~~ 15. (New) A method according to claim 14 wherein said partially cured thermosetting composition comprises a B-staged epoxy-polyester blend.

16. (New) A method according to claim 6 wherein said dimensionally stable film comprises a substantially smooth surface topography.

17. (New) A method according to claim 6 wherein said dimensionally stable film comprises a substantially smooth, paint-receptive surface,

said method further comprising applying paint to said paint-receptive surface,

said paint-receptive surface remaining substantially smooth following cooling.

ay 18. (New) A method according to claim 17 comprising providing said dimensionally stable film with a substantially smooth, paint-receptive surface comprising a thermosetting epoxy-polyester blend.

19. (New) A method according to claim 17 comprising providing said dimensionally stable film with a substantially smooth, paint-receptive surface comprising an ethylene-vinyl alcohol film.

20. (New) A method according to claim 6 wherein (said dimensionally stable film comprises a substantially smooth, bondable surface,)

a (said method further comprising bonding a component to said surface of said film.)

21. (New) A method according to claim 6 wherein said dimensionally stable film exhibits a downweb and crossweb shrinkage of less than about 5% during said heating step.

22. (New) A method according to claim 6 wherein said dimensionally stable film exhibits a downweb and crossweb shrinkage of less than about 3% during said heating step.

23. (New) A method according to claim 6 wherein said dimensionally stable film exhibits a downweb and crossweb shrinkage of less than about 2% during said heating step.

24. (New) A method according to claim 6 wherein said dimensionally stable film exhibits a downweb shrinkage of less than about 1% and a crossweb shrinkage of less than about 0.5% during said heating step.

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B3 25. (New) A method according to claim 6 comprising placing said laminate on the surface of a metal joint of a vehicle and heating said laminate to seal said joint.

26. (New) A method according to claim 6 comprising placing said laminate on the surface of a roof ditch of a vehicle and heating said laminate to seal said roof ditch.

27. (New) A method according to claim 26 wherein said dimensionally stable film comprises a substantially smooth, paint-receptive surface,

said method further comprising applying paint to said paint-receptive surface,

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said paint-receptive surface remaining substantially smooth following cooling.

Sub 4  
28. (New) A method for modifying the surface of a substrate comprising the steps of:

(a) placing on said surface a laminate comprising (i) a melt-flowable composition comprising a semi-crystalline, thermosetting epoxy-polyester blend and (ii) a dimensionally stable film for controlling the melt-flow behavior of said melt-flowable composition, such that said melt-flowable composition contacts said surface,

said film comprising an oriented polyester film having a substantially smooth surface topography;

(b) heating said laminate to cause said melt-flowable composition to flow over and substantially cover a desired area of said surface to adhere said laminate to said surface,

said dimensionally stable film exhibiting a downweb and crossweb shrinkage of less than about 5% and controlling the melt-flow behavior of said melt-flowable composition to substantially confine said melt-flowable composition to said desired area of said surface; and

(c) allowing said laminate to cool while substantially retaining said substantially smooth surface topography of said film.

29. (New) A method for modifying the surface of a substrate comprising the steps of:

(a) placing on said surface a laminate comprising (i) a melt-flowable composition and (ii) a dimensionally stable film